

C/LEG/OLL

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OLL - 84-3340
4 September 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

VIA: Chief, Liaison Division/OLL

FROM:
Liaison Division/OLL

SUBJECT: Status of Ex-Civil Service Spouse
Legislation

1. H.R. 2300 (see OLL 84-1357/2), the House "Civil Service Spouse Retirement Equity Act", is still in Subcommittee (Compensation and Employee Benefits, House Post Office and Civil Service Committee). Committee staffers report that a revised measure will be introduced as a "clean bill", given a new number, be referred back to committee and reported to the floor for consideration. This procedure is a timesaver, as committee-recommended changes in a clean bill do not have to be considered and voted on by the chamber. As soon as the committee is willing to release the new version, I will send it to you.

2. S 2821, the Senate's "Civil Service Former Spouses Benefits Act of 1984" (see OLL 84-2789 and OLL 84-2584) is still in the Civil Service Subcommittee of the Government Operations Committee. The Subcommittee staff is negotiating with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). OPM is agreeing to some retroactive features: employees divorced prior to the effective date of the legislation can, on a voluntary basis, elect to provide survivor benefits to the ex-spouse provided that they redeposit in the fund for the period from the date of the divorce to the effective date. In the event where there are court orders for survivor benefits in prior divorces, employees would have to file a new election with OPM. In addition, OPM has agreed to accept modified health coverage on the condition that the former spouse is entitled to receive or is receiving some form of Civil Service annuity or survivor benefit.

3. Both House and Senate staffers state that there is a strong chance that this Congress will enact ex-Civil Service spouse legislation. While the staffs are not talking directly, OPM has served as a broker over the last month. The Senate and House versions still differ, but are much closer than were the bills as first introduced. I will attend a 6 September mark up of S 2821 and a mark up of H.R. 2300, which likely will take place the week of 10 September, and provide you with the redrafted versions.

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